



CoastalPlain_EIS, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Development In The Arctic Refuge

1 message

Pat Wagner <patwagner@nycap.rr.com>

Sat, May 5, 2018 at 9:29 AM

To: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Dear Bureau of Land Management,

The Arctic Refuge is no place for oil and gas development. Oil and gas activities should not be allowed in the sensitive ecosystem of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. This proposal is the single most destructive attack on the wilderness, wildlife, and subsistence resources of a national wildlife refuge in our history. It is apparent to me and friends I speak with that this Administration is putting politics above protection of one of our most treasured public lands. Rushing into leasing is not what the Refuge deserves or what the law requires. The administration needs to comply with all the important legal protections that are in place to protect caribou, water, subsistence, and other sensitive resources of the Coastal Plain.

The Coastal Plain is the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge and provides important habitat for polar bears, caribou, muskoxen, and hundreds of species of migratory birds that travel from all 50 states and 6 continents. Oil and gas would harm the most important onshore denning habitat for threatened polar bears in the United States, further placing this imperiled species at risk. **THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE!** Oil and gas activities would also further exacerbate climate change, which is already causing temperatures in the Arctic to rise at twice the rate of the rest of the country. **ALSO NOT ACCEPTABLE!** Oil and gas activities are completely at odds with the protection of the wildlife and other values in the Refuge, and with the urgent need to address climate change. **WE NEED TO WAKE UP AND PROTECT THE PLANET & ITS RESOURCES BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!** We cannot overlook long term effects for short term gain for the fossil fuel industry. Those folks need to transition to renewable energy instead of fighting it, and we, the people and our resources should not enable them to staying with their status quo!!

The Coastal Plain is the calving and post-calving ground for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, an important subsistence resource for the Gwich'in Nation. The Gwich'in people have relied on the caribou for millennia and consider the Coastal Plain to be "the sacred place where life begins." Protecting the caribou and its habitats is a matter of basic human rights for the Gwich'in. Protection of the herd and its habitats along its migration route is one of the original reasons why the Arctic Refuge was set aside, and there is a treaty between the U.S. and Canada to protect the herd. Interior needs to gather the best possible scientific information and err on the side of caution to ensure that the herd is fully protected from oil and gas activities.

Interior needs to consider the impacts from all stages of oil and gas, including seismic activities, leasing, exploration drilling, and development, as well as any related infrastructure or other activities. The environmental impacts from oil and gas will extend well beyond the footprint of any actual developments and will harm the wildlife, water, subsistence, and other values the Arctic Refuge was set aside to protect.

Sincerely,
Pat & John Wagner
Averill Park, NY

Sent from my iPad